

This correspondence is in response to applicant's reply filed on 10/19/2009. Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are pending.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the trough-shaped outer bearing surface, now included in all the independent claims, in combination with the other elements recited, which is not found in the prior art of record. The common definition of trough is understood to mean a long, narrow channel. Taubmann et al., fails to teach this feature, and therefore is overcome by the independent claim.

Conclusion

In addition to the prior art of record, the Examiner submits the Notice of References Cited (PTO-892), which discloses additional vehicle seat supports.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL MCDUFFIE whose telephone number is (571)272-3832. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 7AM-3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Shriver can be reached on 571-272-6698. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael McDuffie/
Examiner, Art Unit 3632
4-Nov-09

/J. ALLEN SHRIVER II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3632